

EXCERPTS FROM NEWSPAPERS

Terre Haute CITY DIRECTORY, and BUSINESS MIRROR,

For 1858.

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FORT HARRISON

The site of this old fort is about three miles above Terre Haute, in Vigo county. In early days it was a place of considerable importance. The old "Indian Line" crossed the territory just above the fort, and it was for several years the frontier garrison of the west. There are no traces, however, now remaining of the old structure. The following account of the attack upon the fort, and its gallant defense by General Zachary Taylor, in 1812, is extracted from a lecture delivered by Charles Cruft, Esq., before the "Vigo Historical Society" some years since:

In the month of September, 1811, Gen. Harrison advanced up the Wabash with a detachment of troops under his command, and selected the site of Fort Harrison--a beautiful eminence on the east bank of the Wabash river--three miles above this village.--During the months of September and October, the trees were felled, the timber hewn out, and the walls of the fort erected.

These consisted of a rough palisade or stockade of heavy timber, about one hundred and fifty feet square. The north-west and south-west corners terminated in blockhouses (small buildings in the corners forming part of the walls.) The opposite angles terminated in bastions, which projected sufficiently to command the outside of the walls in two directions. The blockhouses and bastions were two stories high, and pierced on both faces with embrasures, above and below, through which to fire upon the enemy. Within the fortifications and forming the western line, were the soldiers' barracks--rude, log huts. The gate opened towards the east. On the north side of this was the guard-house, on the south the magazine, and near it the well. Along the northern line were the stables, sheds, &c., for the accommodation of the garrison.

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In 1812 the fort was under command of Captain Zachary Taylor, of the 7th Infantry, garrisoned by a company of that regiment. In the fall of this year there was a general state of sickness throughout the entire Wabash valley. A kind of epidemical fever swept throughout the whole country.

The company at Fort Harrison were nearly all unwell, to such a degree as to be incapacitated from service. This fact became known, it is thought, to the Indians.

The wily Prophet, slightly recovering from his defeat at Tippecanoe, in the November previous, and aided by the British, planned an expedition against Fort Harrison.

On Thursday, September 3d, 1812, immediately after retreat-beating, the discharge of four guns was heard by the inmates of the fort, in the direction where two young men had been engaged in making hay, only about four hundred yards distant. The commander immediately conjectured that these young men had been killed by the Indians, but the lateness of the hour prevented sending out to see. They did not return, and at 8 o'clock

on the following morning a corporal, with a small party, was dispatched in search of them, being cautioned against an ambuscade. The officer soon discovered their bodies and brought them into the fort. They had been each shot with two balls, scalped, and mutilated in a horrible manner.

Late in the evening of that day (4th September, 1812) an old Chief, by the name of Lenar, with some thirty or forty Indians--principally Chiefs of the various tribes comprising the Prophet's party--arrived in sight of the fort, bearing a white flag. A Shawanese Indian, who spoke good English, announced to Capt. Taylor that Lenar wished to speak with him, in a friendly manner, on the following morning, and try to obtain some provisions.

This was a stratagem calculated to allay suspicion and put him off his guard: how successful, the sequel will discover.

At retreat-beating that night the commanding officer personally examined the soldiers' arms, found them in good order, and distributed cartridges to complete their number to sixteen rounds each. Owing to the illness of the garrison, it had been impossible for some time previous to mount a guard of more than six privates and two non-commissioned officers.

"From the unhealthiness of my company," says Capt. Taylor, in his dispatches to Gov. Harrison, immediately after the battle, "I had not conceived my force "adequate to the defense of this post, should it be vigorously attacked, for some time past!" He had himself just recovered from a severe attack of fever, and was unable to be up much during the night. When about to retire he cautioned the guard to be most vigilant, and ordered one of the non-commissioned officers to walk round the inside during the whole night, as the sentinels could not, from their position, see every part of the fortification, and an attack was expected before morning. Nor were these precautionary measures unneeded.

About 11 o'clock at night the garrison were alarmed by the firing of one of the sentinels. The commanding officer immediately sprang up and ordered the men to their posts. It was soon discovered that the Indians had fired the lower block-house, containing the property of the army contractor. The discharge of guns soon commenced briskly on both sides, but the alarm of "FIRE" spread great consternation within the fort and the men were slow in executing the orders given. Such was the extreme darkness of the night that, although the upper part of the block-house was occupied by a corporal's guard as an alarm post, yet it was fired undiscovered, in several holes which the cattle had licked out after the salt stored there.

In a few moments the flames communicated to a quantity of whisky contained below, and ascending to the roof, spread with fearful rapidity, baffling every effort to stay it. As the block-house adjoined the barracks--which constituted one line of the fortifications--most of the men gave themselves up for lost. Indeed the raging of the fire, the hideous yells of the blood-thirsty savages, the cries of the women and children who had taken refuge in the fort, the shrill report of the rifle, the darkness of the night, the weakness of the garrison and the vast superiority of the enemy, were enough to appal the stoutest heart.

Fortunately, however, the presence of mind of the commanding officer never forsook him. While the fire was raging he

ordered water to be brought, and placed a number of the men upon the roof of the barracks, with orders to tear off that part next adjoining the burning house, while the remainder poured a heavy fire upon the Indians from the other block-house and bastions.

The roof was torn off under a shower of bullets, with the loss of but one man killed and two wounded. This success inspired the desponding soldiers, and prevented the flames from spreading.

The garrison then set to work with such alacrity that they had, before day, erected a temporary breastwork across the gap occasioned by the burning of the block-house, although the Indians continued to pour a heavy fire of balls and showers of barbed arrows, into every part of the fort, during the whole seven hours that the attack lasted.

On the first appearance of the fire two of the best soldiers leaped over the pickets, in despair; towards day one of them returned, shockingly wounded: the other was cut to pieces by the savages.

After keeping up a constant fire until 6 o'clock in the morning--which was returned with great effect by the garrison after daybreak--the Indians retreated without the reach of the guns of the fort. They then drove together all the horses and hogs belonging to the garrison and citizens, and shot them in their sight. They drove off with them all the cattle belonging to the fort, amounting to seventy or more.

In this attack the garrison had but six killed and wounded! The loss of the Indians was much greater, but as they were sufficiently strong to carry off their dead and wounded, they could never be accurately ascertained. At the time of the attack there were but fifteen effective men in the garrison, the remainder being either sick or convalescent, while the force of the Indians amounted to several hundred.

Disheartened by the ill success of their first attack, the Indians made no further attempt on the fort, although they remained during the next day in the vicinity, and at length retreated to White river, committing depredations on a small settlement in that vicinity.

The garrison of the fort, however, were still in a perilous situation, from the want of provisions. Having lost their stores by fire and cattle by the Indians, they were compelled to subsist on green corn.

Capt. Taylor immediately attempted to send intelligence of his situation to Gov. Harrison, at Vincennes, and dispatched two men in a canoe down the river. They were intercepted by the Indians, and forced to return. He next dispatched his orderly sergeant and another man (through the woods) by land. They reached the Governor, and the garrison were soon relieved by a force of Kentucky volunteers under Gen. Hopkins, amounting to near four thousand men; which, after the relief of Fort Harrison, were ordered to make a campaign against the Indian tribes in the vicinity of the Peoria towns.

Capt. Taylor, for his gallant conduct in defense of Fort Harrison, was, upon recommendation of Gen. Harrison, promoted to a brevet majority, being the oldest brevet upon the Army Register. Since that moment he continued to rise in the army, by promotion on account of field services; was distinguished beyond

any other Major General in the Mexican war; and, finally, was elected President of the United States in 1848.

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TAKEN FROM A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

THE OLD FORT

A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL ORDER TRANSFERRING THE TROOPS
FROM FORT KNOX TO FORT HARRISON.

A Short Sketch of the Life of Major Chunn, Commander
of the Post in 1816.

A gentleman of this city has in his possession the original order of Gen. Alex. Macomb, commander of the Fifth Military Department of the United States, transferring the troops from Fort Knox, at Vincennes, to Fort Harrison, then situated on the east bank of the Wabash, a short distance above the present site of Terre Haute. An Express reporter was permitted to copy the order from the original parchment, which is now yellow with age, and one of the most interesting relics connected with the early history of the Wabash Valley. Below is the order in full:

Fifth Military Department,
Headquarters Detroit,
10th of May, 1816.

Sir: Having been informed by Major Morgan that he has moved out of the department by order of General Jackson, and that in consequence Major Morgan thought it his duty to order you to occupy with your command the fort he had left. You will continue to make Fort Harrison your station and consider yourself commandant thereof. Such of the public property that can, without great expense, be removed from Fort Knox to Fort Harrison, you will cause to be removed, and placed in as much security from depredations and from the weather as your stores will permit. If the quantity of small arms is very great, you will communicate with the officer of the ordnance department nearest you to learn if any

arrangements have been made by his department for the removal of the arms and supplies of ordnance stores. Take care, however, to have your command as well furnished as possible with the means of defense, and always be on your guard toward the Indians, never permitting them to take any undue liberties, and punish promptly any insult they may offer. It is the best way to keep on good terms with them. You will, at the same time, prevent any person from abusing or maltreating the Indians, considering yourself as their protector in all that regards their just rights and privileges. You will be pleased to send me a sketch of the fort and ground in its vicinity, stating the number the barracks will contain, the nature of the soil about the fort, and the general quality of the land near it. Also, whether the position is well chosen, whether it be healthy and the quality of the water. Be pleased to give also the names of the different tribes of Indians in your neighborhood, the amount of Indian warriors in each tribe; also the state of the fort as to comfort and defense, and finally any information touching the command.

With respectful consideration, I have the honor to be, sir,
your obedient servant, Alex. Macomb.

Major General Commanding Fifth Military Department
To Major Chunn, Third Regiment Infantry,
Commanding Fort Harrison.

In this connection a short sketch of the life of Major Chunn will not be out of place, as his descendants still reside in this region, one of his sons, Thomas being a resident of Vermillion County. A daughter also resides in the same county, being a wife of John Wright, a leading farmer.

Major John T. Chunn was born in Maryland in 1780, and while yet young his father removed to Fauquier county, Virginia. But little is known here of Major Chunn's early life in that state. He moved to Ohio in 1801, and thence to Clarksburg, Indiana, in 1804. He became an officer in the United States army in 1811, and participated in Harrison's campaign in Canada. He then returned to Indiana in the latter part of 1815. He was assigned to the command of this military district, which he held until 1818, with headquarters at Fort Harrison. He was afterwards transferred to Fort Detroit. In 1820 he retired from the army, and returned to this county. In 1821 he married Matilda LeMarch, at Clinton, and located on Brouillette creek in Independence township, about four miles southwest of Clinton, where he died in 1847. He served as magistrate in that town for twenty-four years. He was noted for his open-handed hospitality, which prevented him from every becoming a wealthy man.

Major Chunn was prominent in the Masonic fraternity, and was buried with all Masonic honors. He joined the order in Winchester, Virginia, in 1801, and took nine degrees. The gentleman owning the military order above printed, and who furnishes these facts concerning Major Chunn, has in his possession the demit granted Major Chunn by the lodge when he removed from Virginia to Ohio in 1801. He also has a home-made flannel bag, in which it, with a number of other documents, was carried through the battle of Thames. It is worn by use, but retains evidences of the stability of its manufacture. Major Chunn was a charter member of Terre Haute Lodge No. 19, and likewise a charter member of Western Star Lodge No. 30, at Clinton.

The publication of the order removing troops to Fort Harrison recalls the fact that during Major Chunn's stay at the fort a business meeting was held in town of Terre Haute, at the house of Dr. Charles B. Modesitt, as the house contained the largest room in the place. This house was situated upon First street almost the ground where Ellis' woolen mill now stands. Dr. Modesitt was the father of Mrs. Chauncey Warren.

HISTORIC FORT HARRISON AS SHOWN IN AN EARLY SKETCH.

By NORA BALL RAGSCALE.

"But for the stubborn and gallant defense of these points (Fort Harrison and Fort Wayne) the history of the War of 1812 in the Northwest might have been differently written."

Today, well over a century after the Fort Harrison victory which was the chief inspiration for the recording of the above in a history called "Fort Harrison, 1812-1912," all is serene, happy and beautiful at the scene of the old post. Today, instead of Indians creeping stealthily and noiselessly over velvet green and frontiersmen cautiously and carefully choosing silent paths between the giant forest trees, men and women, boys and girls assemble at the Fort Harrison Country Club for pleasure, relaxation and sociability. A playground, beautiful and delightful, has been evolved from the old battle site.

Except for those members of historical organizations and some scattering individuals here and there who have become history conscious, few, even here on the scene, recall their country's childhood to the point of remembering that next Thursday, Sept. 4, is the Fort Harrison battle anniversary. On that date 118 years ago a handful of whites under the leadership of Capt. Zachary Taylor succeeded in repulsing an infuriated band of Indians representing a number of tribes.

Luncheon Sept. 15.

Fort Harrison Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Miss Bonnie Farwell, regent, will hold a luncheon meeting at the Fort Harrison Country Club on Monday, Sept. 15, in a joint observation of the anniversary of the battle of Fort Harrison and Constitution Day. Mrs. Anne Studebaker Carlisle of South Bend, state D. A. R. chairman of registration, will speak on "The Need of a New Constitution in Indiana," at the luncheon. Historical societies of three counties--Clay, Parke and Vigo--will meet at Turkey Run next Thursday, the anniversary day. A. R. Markle, history authority, will include in his talk on "A Family Matter," at this tri-county meeting, a short account of the battle of Fort Harrison. His talk in the main, however, will deal with geneology. Many Terre Haute residents today trace their ancestry direct to the defenders of the old fort on the Banks of the Wabash.

While the battle was fought on Sept. 4, 1812, it was not until Sept. 10 that Captain Taylor reported in a detailed letter an account of it to General Harrison. The captain gave a graphic description of the event, much of which will be recalled in the coming observances. Let us quote from it here in part:

"Dear sir: On Thursday evening, Aug. 3, after retreat beating, four guns were heard to fire in the direction where two young men (citizens who resided here) were making hay, about 400 yards distant from the fort. I was immediately impressed with an idea that they were killed by Indians, as the Miamis or Weas had that day informed me that the Prophet's party would soon be here for the purpose of commencing hostilities...I did not think it prudent to send out at that late hour of the night to see what

had become of them; and their not coming in convinced me that I was right. I waited until 8 o'clock next morning when I sent out a corporal with a small party to find them. He soon sent back to inform me that he had found them both killed. I sent the car and oxen, had them brought in and buried; they had been shot with two balls, scalped and cut in the most shocking manner. Late in the evening of Aug. 4 old Joseph Lenar and between 30 and 40 Indians arrived from the Prophet's town with a white flag; among whom were 10 women, and the men were composed of the chiefs of the different tribes that compose the Prophet's party. At retreat beating I examined the men's arms and found them all in good order and completed their cartridges to 16 rounds per man. As I had just recovered from a very severe attack of fever, I was not able to be up much through the night. At 11 o'clock I was awakened by the firing of one of the sentinels... my orderly sergeant called out that the Indians had fired the lower blockhouse... the guns had begun to fire pretty smartly from both sides. I directed the buckets to be got ready and water brought from the well and the fire extinguished immediately. The men were very slow in executing orders. The word fire seemed to throw the whole of them into confusion, and by the time they had got the water and broken open the door, the fire had unfortunately communicated to a quantity of whisky. In spite of every exertion we could make use of, in less than a moment it ascended to the roof and baffled every effort we could make to extinguish it.

Scene to Bring Terror.

"And, sir, what from the raging of the fire, the yelling and howling of several hundred Indians, the cries of nine women and children (a part soldiers and a part citizens' wives, who had taken shelter in the fort) and the desponding of so many of the men, which was worse than all--I can assure you that my feelings were very unpleasant--and indeed there were not more than 10 or 15 men to do a great deal, the others being either sick or convalescent and to add to our other misfortunes two of the stoutest men in the fort jumped the picket and left us....But my presence of mind did not for a moment forsake me.

"I saw that by throwing off part of the roof...the whole row of buildings might be saved, and leave only an entrance of 18 or 20 feet for the Indians to enter after the house was consumed, and that a temporary breastwork might be erected to prevent their even entering there. ... Those who were able mounted the roofs of the houses, with Dr. Clark at their head under a shower of bullets and threw off as much of the roof as was necessary... only one man killed...although the barracks were several times in a blaze, and an immense quantity of fire against them, the men used such exertion that they kept it under control and before day raised a temporary breastwork as high as a man's head, although the Indians continued to pour in a heavy fire of hail and innumerable quantity of arrows...I had but one man killed, nor any other wounded inside the fort, and he lost his life by being too anxious. He got into one of the galleys on the bastions and fired over the pickets, and called out to his comrades that he had killed an Indian, and neglecting to stoop down in an instant he was shot dead. One of the men that jumped the pickets returned an hour before day...

Daylight Comes Opportunely.

"After keeping up a constant fire until 6 o'clock the next morning, we began to return with some effect after day-

light, they removed out of the reach of our guns. We lost the whole of our provisions...I believe the whole of the Miamis or Weas were among the Prophet's party...They continued with us no further attempt on the Fort, nor have we seen anything more of them since."

Great Britain's determination to keep her former child off the sea, the parent being jealous of her off-spring's commerce, caused the 1812 war, it will be recalled. Because the Indians still felt deeply that they had been unjustly treated by the American whites, it was not difficult for England to enlist their support in her land warfare. And behind that particular warfare lay something more, which is recorded in the Fort Harrison history as follows:

"Later developments of historical research have shown that the attempt to capture Fort Harrison was a part of the plan of campaign of the British Army in Canada." This doubtless refers to the terms of the treaty formulated in 1815 at the close of the war begun in 1812. Great Britain made a futile effort to have inserted in the document a clause by which she would be given the territory from Canada to the Gulf and from the Allegheny Mountains to the Mississippi River.

It requires no strain of even an inelastic imagination to understand that Britain's pride was still suffering from the enforced realization that her most promising youngster had "come of age;" and forcibly taken her rights and started out on her own. Turbulent days of the revolution were not far enough distant to have been forgotten. Britain, believing she had an opportunity to administer a tip-top spanking, if not a real-for-sure lickin' to the United States of America, started all the fuss.

While the battle of Fort Harrison to date has not been given much prominence, yet historians are gradually beginning to put it in its rightful place. They are coming to recognize it as one of the most important of the frontier battles which marked the westward, ho! march of civilization. It seems plainly evident that the entire history and geography of the United States would have been far different had the Indians won Fort Harrison for the British.

FORT HARRISON---GENERAL TAYLOR

WABASH COURIER

Terre Haute, Indiana, July 15, 1848

The first brevet of the last war with Great Britain was conferred on General Taylor, then a Captain in the United States army, for his gallant defence of Fort Harrison. The events of that memorable night are familiar to the readers of our military annals. With only sixteen able-bodied men for its defence, himself weak from a recent fever, he found the fort at eleven o'clock at night invested by four hundred and dirty savages. One section of stockade on the southwestern angle had been used as a store-house, (the whole was built of hewn logs,) and it was at that point the Indians placed their fires under the outer wall. The whole of that part of the building was soon in flames, a quantity of whiskey and bacon stored there taking fire and adding to the horrors of the scene.

Seeing at once the madness of attempting with his small band a sortie upon the enemy, and the improbability of saving that part of the building, the destruction of which would open a breach of nearly twenty feet into the fort, Captain Taylor instantly determined upon the only plan by which the main fort could be saved and his little party rescued from destruction. It was a desperate and perilous plan; and, while his small band stood appalled by what seemed the dreadful alternative of perishing by fire or falling into the hands of the savages, he called them around him, and, with a voice and manner that convinced them of his purpose, he told them to have no fear of falling into the hands of the savages—that he should never surrender, and that, when the worst came and further defence was unavailing, he would fire the magazine and they would all perish together. This was his stern response to those around him, and we have heard an old soldier, who was there, say that they all knew he meant what he said. He convinced them, however, that they might yet be saved, and, after explaining his plan of throwing off a part of the roof to prevent the spread of the flames and erecting a breastwork inside the breach which the fire would inevitably make, he concluded by saying: "Go each one to your duty; this is our only hope." It is needless to add, that thenceforth all, men and women (for there were several women in the fort) worked with the energy of despair. The result is known. When the crumbling walls gave way, the breach was already closed by a new breastwork, behind which stood this little band and their noble leader, all now animated by his example and his confidence. After seven hours of horrors, when daylight came, the Indians, baffled in all their expectations, and suffering from the continual fire from the inside, retired, carrying away their killed and wounded. Before sunset, the breach in the wall was securely closed by a substantial line of pickets, and the little garrison once more secure.

(Taken from a newspaper article)

OLD TIMES

Captain James Hite Interviewed by an Express Reporter.

Some Interesting Facts Connected With Fort Harrison
and Old Terre Haute.

A MAN WHO HEARD TECUMSEH CALL GENERAL HARRISON A LIAR.

There are few men left of the olden times and the record and personal history of every one of them is precious to us all, for their names and deeds of heroism, their pioneer life and bravery in facing danger are a heritage to us that we shall treasure as long as America is free and The Republic a living reality. Other nations can look back among the centuries and treasure up here and there great heroes and martyrs, worthy names and mighty deeds, battles of renown and a martial spirit that animated their great progenitors. But we can trace our history only a few generations into the past, we are but just entering the dawn of the second century of our existence, and it is a sacred duty as well as a privilege to gather up the stray records of our noble ancestry, and add to the proudest record that ever gilded any age of the world. In this spirit and with this view we present in this paper a brief sketch of one of our honored citizens, Captain James Hite, now eighty-three years old, who was body guard to General Harrison; was present at Vincennes when Tecumseh called him a liar; helped to select the site of old Ft. Harrison; was present at the battle of Tippecanoe; rode in one of the British vessels captured by Commodore Perry; saw Tecumseh as he lay dead on the battle field

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of Thames river; was one of the youngest quartermasters in the world, having filled that responsible position when but just seventeen years of age, and was three times enlisted and three times honorably discharged during the perilous times of 1811, 1812, and 1813 and before he was of age, and was made captain before he was eighteen.

Captain Hite was born January 1st, 1794, eight miles from Louisville, Kentucky, in the famous Bear Grass region; he received a common school education in the schools of the neighborhood, but while a mere youth the call was made for three months volunteers by the government, and in 1811 he enlisted as a private in Captain Funks cavalry company, the commander of the battalion being the famous Jo Daviess after whom one of the important counties of Illinois was named. Judge Parke after whom our own Parke county was named commanded one of the companies. The force marched to Vincennes, reaching it in about four days. Governor William Henry Harrison, or General Harrison as we recognize him mainly in history, was filling the gubernatorial chair, residing at Vincennes, though Corydon was the state capitol; the writer has been in the old building and remembers it as a court house very similar as to size and construction to the old court house that still stands at Rockville.

The government had ordered Governor Harrison to make a treaty with the Indians, and Private Hite was present when Tecumseh, the great Indian leader, came with twenty or thirty followers to the door-yard of the governor.

The conversation was carried on through an interpreter, but there seemed little prospect of arriving at terms of peace; and when it was announced that TECUMSEH CALLED THE GOVERNOR A'LIAR,

the wildest excitement arose, and the redskins were in eminent danger of their lives, but Governor Harrison bade the fierce militia let them go in peace, which they unwillingly did.

The force was sent to the new seminary building for quarters, but the shavings were so full of Vincennes fleas that the men could not sleep, and those of them that could pay--Private Hite among them - went to the hotels. After remaining there a week they were ordered north, and, in a few days, camped two miles below this city.

A call was made for a body-guard to go with Harrison to select a site for a fort. Hite was one of the number; and the party, numbering twenty privates and several officers went, the next day, some fifteen miles north, camped at a beautiful spring and ate their lunch, then came back along the banks of the river, reaching, after night, the main body that had advanced up the river five miles and so well were all pleased with the location that the general and staff decided to build a fort there, and this was selected Fort Harrison. It took the men about two weeks to build it, the ground occupying about two acres, although Mr. Hite's memory is treacherous regarding the exact amount. A block house was erected and pickets made of logs, eighteen or twenty feet long, were set in the ground close together, some three feet deep all around the two acres.

Mr. Hite being quite young - only seventeen - did not cut any timber for the fort, as he could easily get men to do his part by giving them his rations of whisky, but he did full guard duty. The fort, now a peaceful farm, well tilled, with scarce a vestige of its former appearance, was then a howling wilderness, with jack oak trees and grapevines, thick about the locality. There were

brave men in that army, and one of them who was on guard duty outside the fort after night saw a moving object and challenged it, receiving a shot in the right leg, and immediately yelled out: "Oh I'm shot! I'm shot, I'm shot"! raising the garrison, and young Hite who was picket guard, rushed up to the front of the enemy, but nobody was found. The guard was a notorious liar and it was not known whether he shot himself or not, but a year afterwards Mr. Hite met a friendly Indian called "Big Tom", who told the same story, and said he heartily enjoyed the three cries of the squaw white man.

Terre Haute then was one of the most beautiful blue grass regions of the west, and gave no promise of the present beautiful city it now is. An old Indian town had been located on the high bluff just above the water works, that was indeed beautiful for situation. After the fort was completed, the force moved up to Tippecanoe river to the afterwards famous "battle ground" eight miles beyond Lafayette; two miles from their destination they were met by a delegation from the Prophet, Tecumseh's older brother, in charge of the Indian force of five hundred warriors, at Prophet's town, and it was proposed to enter into a treaty in the morning, this however only a ruse, as Tecumseh was only fifteen miles away with five hundred warriors, and if they arrived, the white army would suffer defeat. He did not arrive however, and the Prophet waged battle and was as all the world knows, utterly routed and General Harrison thereafter became the "HERO OF TIPP-ECANOE." It was a dear victory, for the gallant Jo. Daviess fell mortally wounded, and was buried by his comrades in the wilderness, and then they burned every lodge of the Indians, finding many bodies of the slain in their small cellars, or "tater holes," as

the soldiers called them. The force was mustered out after two months and eleven days service.

In 1812 Mr. Hite enlisted again for six months, and though but eighteen years old, was made quartermaster of the regiment of cavalry under Col. Simrall. They went to Cincinnati; received their arms, and left for Fort Wayne to relieve Gen. Winchester, who was a brigadier, wanting Harrison's militia, but they would not leave him, and as he expected the commission of a major general, which he soon after received. Winchester was forced to succumb. They went to Fort St. Marys, near the lakes, but stayed only a few days. While there one brave picket guard put a bullet into a stump, which, in the darkness, he thought he saw creeping upon him. That stump never stirred out its tracks - but the poor fellow was rallied a great deal on his bravery; as they had not made final desposition of the stores, quartermaster Hite rushed to the wagon and gathering a box of cartridges pressed it to his breast, so hard that he broke his watch, a very great loss in those times, and it took a long time before it could be sent to Cincinnati and returned in good repair.

Winchester having gone to old Ft. Defiance in Ohio, was again beleaguered by the Indians, and Col. Simrall ordered his men to their relief. Arriving there the redskins had disappeared and the forces went on up to Dayton and Franklin, Ohio, to recruit the worn out horses. The next move was to strike the Mississinewas on the banks of the beautiful river of that name, above the city of Peru in this state. They burned their largest town and captured a large number of squaws and old men, and their time being nearly expired they marched home and were mustered out.

On the 26th of August, 1813, Quartermaster Hite raised a company of cavalry under Governor Shelby and was made captain. They marched to Put-in-Bay, and leaving their horses were carried across the lake to Malden in a vessel captured by Commodore Perry from the British. There was a large army of regulars and militia from Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, and after several days hard marching, they overtook the British under Proctor, who was ostensibly commander-in-chief, but Tecumseh was really the master spirit, he being much the better general. Procter and his officers, however, knew that the opposing force was larger than their own, and so made preparations for defeat. The soldiers only fired one volley, then ground their arms and surrendered, the officers skedaddling incontinently. The Indians, however, fought fiercely from their ambush. Captain Hite with his company had charge of the munitions of war, and as he commanded the reserve corps, he saw the fight and remembers very distinctly what none of us will ever see - a long line of "red coats" in battle array on our own soil. He saw where Tecumseh was fighting, though not aware of it at the time, and going over to see him an hour afterwards found that he had been standing within one hundred and fifty yards of the spot upon which that great and redoubtable warrior bravely fell, although but an hour had elapsed, yet the soldiers had stripped him and with that strange preference that most soldiers had at that time, they had taken almost all the skin from his thighs and several strips from his back. They believed that Indian skin made the best razor strops in the world and so had cut them off the body of Tecumseh, the size being one inch wide and a foot in length. Some doubt being expressed as to whether it was really Tecumseh or not, Captain Hite who had seen him at

Vincennes was called on but could not identify him. General Harrison was called up who said "turn him over, there is a scar on his forehead above his right eye," and sure enough there was the scar and the flayed body before them was thus known to be Tecumseh, recognized by the enemy in whose dooryard he had dared to call a liar. General Harrison was avenged.

In answer to the inevitable question, "Who killed Tecumseh?" which at last seemed could be solved by an eye witness, Mr. Hite smilingly replied, just as every one does, "I do not know." When we went up to Tecumseh, we found three bullet holes in his body, either one of which would have killed him. We found Col. Dick Johnson there in front of him with one of his pistols empty. We had no revolvers then. He had faced Tecumseh, and so had Col. Whitley of Kentucky, who lay dead with two pistols on his gunbarrel, empty, whether the one or the other killed him or some one else or whether neither or both assisted, I cannot tell. When Col. Dick Johnson was making a speech here in Terre Haute afterwards, some one asked "who killed Tecumseh?" and he replied, "If brother Jimmy was alive he could tell," this much I say for Colonel Johnson, he never claimed to have "killed Tecumseh" and so the question is not solved and doubtless never will be in time. Col. Whitley was an old man, some sixty years old, he saw an Indian skulking among the willows across the Thames as the troops were passing along the day before, and raising in his saddle he shot him dead, he then rode across the river, and securing his scalp, rode back again in presence of the army. The next day he was killed; was it retribution?

The captain narrates in regard to the razor strop barbarity, that at the battle of Tippecanoe some of the soldiers shot an

Indian who dropped his gun and ran straight forward and entered their lines falling dead within twenty feet of Captain Hite's tent, having run over one hundred yards from the place where he was shot. His skin was almost entirely cut off in inch strips and used for razor strops by the men in camp.

The battle ended and the Indians and British being demoralized the army came over to Detroit, and going to Put-in-Bay returned home and were mustered out in November, 1813. In 1815 Captain Hite was married to his present wife, Miss Ann W. Smith, and in 1830 they came to Illinois, settled on a farm where on corner of three counties, Clark, Coles, and Edgar. In 1848 he came to Terre Haute where they have since lived. They have buried all of their seven children and live on a comfortable provision made in the past stirring portion of their lives. It will be remembered that Captain Hite made the first political speech in Vigo county in 1861 in favor of the war for the suppression of the rebellion, and raised the first extra bounty by subscription, in the state, which W. R. McKeen took to the soldiers at Louisville the amount being ten dollars each. He also recruited largely, making numerous speeches, and raised the "Silver Greys," a company of old men over fifty, he being chosen captain, Gen. John Scott first lieutenant and George Boord second lieutenant. It was a scene of great pleasure to all who witnessed their drill, in the yard, which is now the beautiful (?) campus of the state normal school.

Captain Hite is a genial old man, and has lived a worthy, blameless life. Our nation is not a war faring nation, it rather cultivates the arts of peace; and, yet, it is well to treasure the memory of such as he, and emulate their noble example when appears the first intimation of danger.

Striking Location, With Great View of Wabash River,
Makes Site of Early Fortification of Particular Interest---Battles With Indians Dramatic Chapters in
Lives of Two Presidents of United States.

Four hundred and thirty-six years ago North America was a wilderness, unexplored, uninhabited by white people, without civilization. The country was peopled by a half million or more natives with red skins, naked savages. Immense herds of buffalo, elk, deer and wild animals roamed the vast areas. Great flocks of wild fowl which consisted of turkeys, geese, ducks, chickens, pigeons and lesser birds, obscured the sun, denuded forestry of branches as they migrated to distant reaches of land and water. Mineral and other wealth, far beyond the figures known to mankind, lay hidden by fertile wonderfully productive soil--soil that had never been cultivated to provide food.

Nature was in complete control of that which it had builded. So was it when Columbus landed and so it remained for centuries afterward, even though visited by other explorers. The arrival of the Spanish and the arrival of the English and French, who came, not to remain, but to exploit, to take away with them the fairy like wealth that was supposed to abound upon the surface of the continent, followed afterward.

There were among those explorers men who found return impossible, because of their means; men who cared not to return to their land; men who had been driven, had been removed by force from their country. And there were men, because of their belief in God, who came to spread their doctrines through the new world. And there were also men who came to build for themselves and for those whom they loved a home in the wilderness, the reputed Utopia.

Wild Life Disappears.

And with the growing encroachments of civilization, the Indians, the vast herds of wild animals, the great flocks of birds, the immense areas of virgin forestry gradually disappeared; destroyed wastefully, wantonly, to provide mankind with food, excitement and to make room for civilization.

The natives he called "Indians." They were scattered over the country, here and there, congregated in what were called "villages," but for the most part the Indians were "movers," their habitations permitting of easy removal, which was done, so that the Indians might migrate with the buffalo and deer and the wild fowl to regions of less rigor. The natives, before the arrival of the white men, were being slowly exterminated by disease, plagues, exposure to the elements, by fighting among themselves for hunting territories and because of the stronger, more powerful tribes encroaching upon the established rights of the weaker tribes, and because of their shiftlessness, laziness, filthiness, and by their ignorance.

The Indians generated without the slightest form of marriage. A buck Indian, by the apyment of animal hides, a fashioned ornament of his manufacture, the teeth of a wild animal or the feathers of a bird of plumage or even by the presentation of a rare shell or brilliant stone, came into the possession of a squaw for one night, one moon, one Winter or one year or a

lifetime if the companionship proved profitable to his laziness and pleasing to his lustful nature. The children so born, when separation had been decided upon, were divided, the females going with their mother and the males with their father, and the squaw mother taking the cooking utensils fashioned by her, the blankets cured by her, to some other "brave warrior," or to live by the support of "one night husbands," or alone.

Fairy Stories Untrue.

While many writers of sentimental fiction would have their readers believe that the Indian was of a loving nature, that he had a soul that looked heavenward to a "happy hunting ground," such fancies were not displayed by the Indians met in the early pioneer days. Perhaps after contact with the priests, the Puritans and other devout, religionists they imitated, as has the imported colored man, the actions of the white men. And the teachings of such gospels were never wholeheartedly taken into their souls, as one might understand who has read the various tales which have been written by actual pioneers, and not by men and women far distant from even the sight of an Indian.

Through wars with the Spanish, who entered the country from the south, the French that entered from the north and the English who entered from the east, the Indians gave every assistance possible to exterminate the pioneer that was known and called American. In spite of those wars and the devastating effects of such wars amidst such a primitive wilderness, a country grew, expanded, and there arose from that wilderness of wars--war of extermination of man, beast and fowl--the United States of America.

And, forming a portion of that vast, populous, prosperous area we visit a location where 117 years ago the government of the United States, after possession of over 30 years began to realize its value and began to make effort to protect from the Indians the scattered settlers, the pioneers of Indian Territory.

First Claimed by Spain.

This territory was claimed, by right of discovery, by Spain and taken from her by treaty with the French, who had conquered Spain on foreign seas. The French made little effort to colonize the vast empire, were easily cast aside by the British and by treaties caused by losing battles on foreign seas and in Canada. And the British, in turn, were defeated at the several isolated fortified locations by the activities of that unconquerable general, George Rogers Clark, who defeated the British at Kaskaskia and Vincennes. Through the assistance of a few hundred half-starved, inadequately equipped troops and aided very materially by the advice of Father Gibault, a French Catholic priest located at Post Vincennes, and by the funds and valuable advice of conditions at Post Vincennes, given to Clark by the unappreciated Col. Francis Vigo, the British were compelled to surrender the vast domain to the United States, an empire to which the United States came into possession of by treaty with Great Britain at the close of the War of Revolution in 1783.

It became a part of Virginia and Connecticut and much later those states relinquished their claims and the vast area became what was then known, as the Northwest Territory in 1787. The year of 1800 the area was divided into several states--Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota were the divisions

named. And that year Gen. William Henry Harrison proceeded to Vincennes as Governor of Indiana Territory. And a land that had been dominated by four different nations began to operate as a distant portion of the United States; and the seat of government was sent to the location, where there stood a log fort, called Fort Sackville, which had the distinction of the flags of three different nations flying over its inclosure and a fort that surrendered but one time, because of attack, and by surrendering to the American, General Clark, the British rule passed from the soil of the United States to a dominion bounded by a treaty that has never been violated by either nation for over a century.

Harrison Knew Facts.

General Harrison, as he took control of the affairs of Indiana Territory, knew of the existing fact that now one-third of the lands were possessed by the United States and that over two-thirds were then in possession of various tribes of Indians. Indians that had never been, and never were, friendly to the Americans. He at once set about endeavoring to arrange peaceful treaties with the Indians to obtain control of the various lands held by them. Toward that end he obtained United States troops and, later, began a series of fortifications along the Wabash River, whose course was the main artery of transportation at that time. He knew that the Indians were well supplied with guns, powder and lead and had been taught by observing the white man's tactic of warfare and the fact that they were supplied by the British. He knew they dared not give battle with a great number of warriors because of the difficulties of transporting the men and women and providing for them while on an extended journey to an intended attack. So it was understood by that Indian-fighting Harrison that forts must be constructed at various settlements and made convenient as a refuge for the settlers in event of attack by small bands of roving Indians. While no attack upon any of these forts constructed was made by any great force of Indians, they provided protection for the isolated settlers who otherwise might have been killed or driven away by various war-painted savages and thereby retarded the cultivation, population and the civilization of the territory.

After weeks of correspondence with the wily but brave warrior, Tecumseh, who had left Greenville, Ohio, and was located in the South, and who General Harrison felt was the brains behind the growing insolence of a band of Indians that had formed a large village near the mouth of the Tippecanoe river, which was called Prophetstown, and was ruled by that cunning Shawnee Indian chief known as the Prophet, and who was a brother of Tecumseh, General Harrison became aware of the fact by the various speeches and long windy orations of Tecumseh that there was but one way to end the argument and that way was by using force. So, after a year of correspondence with the federal government, he received instructions to proceed to Prophetstown with an armed force. The force consisted of less than 1,000 United States troops and armed settlers and veteran Indian fighters.

Arriving at a location just north of the Wea Indian village which was located on the area now occupied by Terre Haute in October, 1811, Harrison's troops camped near the settlement that was scattered over the large prairie on the elevation just north of what is now the limits of the city and there on the east

bank of the Wabash river the troops constructed a small fort of logs with two blockhouses facing the river and it was named in honor of General Harrison. Five men planted 75 acres of corn near where now is located the Lockport Road. The Indians which were numerous about the locality, offering no hindrance, probably because of their child-like plans, they determined to capture the corn when harvesting time arrived.

Settlers Feel Secure.

Log cabin homes dotted the horizon of the prairie, isolated, miles apart, but the presence of United States troops and the distant fort provided a feeling of security.

After erecting the fort, the troops continued along the Wabash river northward, crossing the river near Attica, there continuing on the west and north side of the Wabash, passing Fort Ouiactnon to the location of Prophetstown. Arriving there Nov. 6 they were apparently welcomed and a spot was pointed out to them for a camp. The place although judged impractical, affording no protection in event of an attack, was accepted by General Harrison and several days later just before the break of dawn on Nov. 7 attack was made upon the camp and the Indians found the troops prepared as they had been sleeping with their loaded guns near at hand and they were fully clothed. As a gun was discharged by a dying tomahawked sentry, the troops were instantly on their feet and the battle had begun.

The forces were about equal. Many whites were killed. Illustrious men fell in that battle. Captain Tipton and others were famed. Daylight arriving found the Indians scattered, disillusioned by the false prophecy of the prophet, as they found the bullets of the white men had penetrated the skin and bone of the red men. The town was burned and the Indians sued for peace. And the troops marched back to Fort Vincennes. But the Indians were not yet overpowered and had it not been for Fort Harrison there might have been a greater massacre than there was a Pigeon Roost settlement.

Between the years of 1786 and 1796 Kickapoo war parties from their villages on the Wabash and Vermillion rivers kept the settlements in the vicinity of Kaskaskia and Ouiactnon in a continual alarm. At the close of the Pontiac War the Kickapoos, assisted by the Pottawatomies, almost annihilated the Kaskaskias at the place afterward called Battle Ground Creek on the road leading from Kaskaskia to Shawneetown (in Illinois). The Kaskaskias were shut up in villages and the Kickapoos became the recognized proprietors of the vast territory. One of their towns was situated on the Vermilion River near Danville, Ill., which was considered in the vicinity of Fort Harrison. The Kickapoos were much attached to the country and to the Vermilion River and they gave General Harrison great trouble before he gained their consent to cede the territory to the United States.

Kickapoos Are Active.

In the desperate plans of Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet to unite all the Indian tribes in a vast confederation in a war of extermination against the whites, the Kickapoos took an active part. General Harrison made extraordinary efforts to avert the trouble that culminated in the Battle of Tippecanoe. The Kickapoos were especially troublesome in 1806. Scouts who were learned in Indian language and customs were sent to the Indians with gifts, offers of peace and tempting advancement. However, the Kickapoos, who were numerous at the battle of Tippe-

canoe and who fought bravely at that battle and who had sided with the British many years, were not defeated in spirit as they fled from the vicinity of their defeat. They sided with Great Britain at the War of 1812 and 1815 against the United States, holding the settlements about Fort Harrison and other isolated locations in Indiana in constant peril.

As the Pottawatomies and other Indian tribes friendly to the British laid siege to Fort Wayne, the Kickapoos, assisted by the Winnebagoes, undertook the capture of Fort Harrison. They nearly succeeded and would have taken the fort but for one of the most stubborn, heroic defenses under Capt. (afterward general and President of the United States) Zachary Taylor.

Sept. 4, 1812, after the Indians had for many days by loafing about the fort induced the belief that they were friendly (at the same time the main body of warriors was secreted some distance away) the Indians felt the opportunity had arrived and as they had complete knowledge of the vicinity, number of troops and general defensive preparations, location of outposts and buildings. The Indians began the attack, in the middle of the night, by crawling toward the fort.

Sets Fire to Blockhouse.

One warrior with inflammable materials wrapped in a blanket, which was then about his back, moved like a snake over the intervening space until he was directly under one of the corner blockhouses. Once there, he dug a hole, crawling under the blockhouse, he set fire to it. As it contained whisky and other inflammable merchandise, a blaze soon warned those within that an attack had begun and fire was also to be considered. That part of the fort that was set afire was destroyed, but before it afforded an entrance to the fort, Captain Taylor, leaving a sick bed and advised by a doctor, who was an occupant of the fort, there was constructed from timbers obtained from buildings within the fort a barricade that proved effective protection and the attack failed. The two days following saw continuous fighting and the Indians disappeared from sight, but it was over a week before General Taylor's scouts were able to reach Vincennes and deliver his call for provisions and reinforcements. The occupants of the fort subsisted on green corn as their stores had been consumed by the fire. Relief arrived after two weeks of suffering, led by Colonel Russell from Vincennes. On his return to that location he found the remains of a wagon train of provisions that had been convoyed by 13 troopers. The train had been captured by the Indians, the men killed and the provisions removed.

Exasperated by their failure to capture Fort Harrison, the Indians attacked Pigeon Roost settlement and there massacred the entire village, which consisted of 25 inhabitants, most women and children. Some of the barbarities there were too shocking to be detailed.

In 1819 a treaty was made with the Kickapoos and other Indian tribes, by which the land about Fort Harrison, southward to near Vincennes, was ceded to United States and became a part of the state of Indiana. The majority of the Kickapoos migrating to Texas, because of their hatred for Americans and desire of living beyond the limits of the United States. They later moved into Mexico when Texas became a part of the hated country.

Abraham Markle, born in New York in 1769 and who died in 1826, who was a member of Parliament in Canada and who at the out-

break of the War of 1812 gave his services to the United States and had his property confiscated by the Canadian government, was partially compensated by the United States with a quantity of script land grants and extra pay, and he proceeded to locate on Indiana lands. As soon as the first public land sale occurred, he purchased with his land grants that land upon which the fort stood and many sections of adjoining land and also established a grist mill on Otter Creek, where it is still located. This was in 1816 and he was accompanied by Joseph Richardson. Both have numerous descendants living in Terre Haute at the present time as well as Dickson, Crawford and others who were defenders of the historic Fort Harrison. In 1816 Major Chunn was the commander of that military district and his headquarters were at the fort.

Two years after the attack on the fort, Indians while roaming about in small bands killing isolated hunters and settlers, secreted themselves in a plum thicket near the fort. Two French soldiers discovered the presence of Indians, returned to the fort and one of the Frenchmen returned to the thicket with 11 troopers. They were attacked by 40 Indians who had allowed the Frenchmen to return with their information, knowing they would return with a number of men. Five of the men were killed and all were more or less wounded. In 1815 the Indians in great numbers fled to Vincennes to sue for peace. While the attack on Fort Harrison has been widely chronicled, there were more men killed at the plum thicket than there were in the three days' fighting in the fort. That attack cost the lives of but four men and General Taylor is quoted as saying, "They lost their lives by carelessness," by unnecessary exposure.

"Like many small affairs in the world's history, it was not the battle itself, it was not the few men--and women--behind that stockade, for one night withstood the efforts of the Indians and were not massacred. It was the events preceding and the results following, as well as the heroic efforts of the few, which render their defense of Fort Harrison one of the outstanding items in the history of the United States."

Linked With Presidents.

Fort Harrison was built and first commanded by William Henry Harrison and at the fort's first and only attack it was commanded by Zachary Taylor. Both men gained fame as Indian fighters and statesmen and both became President of the United States and both died while in that exalted office. As Tecumseh was historically lauded by the British for his aid to them in the war with the United States in 1812 and 1815, there is little doubt but that the British aided and abetted the Indians in their attacks on the Americans in the great Northwest Territory, and as Fort Harrison was one of the fortified gateways, by its firm, heroic stand, without doubt had much to do with preventing of delay to the settling of this immediate region.

And the fact is disclosed that the beautiful site of Fort Harrison has been dominated by four powerful nations and at that location there was erected a fort that was attacked but the one time and over it unfurled but one Flag to the breezes of the historic Wabash and that Flag was the one that now waves over the entire United States.

After the land was possessed by the federal government, sold by public land sales by Indiana, it passed from the hands of Abraham Markle, its first private owner, into the hands of Ma-

Jor Smock. A half century later it was purchased by the Ehrmanns and the tumbled dwelling was improved and provided a Summer home for Max Ehrmann for a number of years. He was later prevailed upon to sell to a country club, which now owns it and has beautified the landscapes and property.

The old original colonial cottage, which had been repaired and improved, has had several extensive one-story additions added to it by the present owners to make it more convenient for club purposes. However, the main portion of the building and the doorway remain intact and are of that architectural type that was popular nearly a century ago.

Granite Marker Erected.

Standing in front of the club house, facing the river, upon the elevated east bank, which commands a beautiful view of a wide bend in the Wabash River, stands a huge block of granite, cut in the rough, to which is bolted a bronze plate, that carries the inscription: "1812--Fort Harrison--1912. This stone marks the site and commemorates the one hundredth anniversary of the heroic defense of Fort Harrison by a small body of United States soldiers assisted by the settlers against the Indians Sept. 4, 1812. The fort was built by William Henry Harrison and at the time of the attack was commanded by Zachary Taylor, both of whom afterward became President of the United States."

The fort, which was completed Oct. 23, 1811, was built of logs. A space 150 feet square was surrounded by a log stockade and two large block houses, each 20 feet square, at either end, facing the river. The gate was to the east.

The palisades running on either side from west to east were deeply embedded in a five-foot trench. The blockhouse, being set out from the line of the palisades and projecting over the lower building, afforded observation and protection to the walls of the entire fort. The logs were cut from neighboring river forestry, as the prairie extending to the east, north and south for home than three miles in each direction was devoid of large timber.

It is to be regretted that this historic, sentimental, beautiful, location is not the property of the citizens of Terre Haute or controlled either by thegovernment. It would afford ideal, conveniently located recreational lands and water or great historic and scenic value--a spot which would prove to be both enjoyable and profitable to the entire community.

A great part of the purchase price could be realized by the sale of 100-foot lots, restricted buildings, along the east boundary in Seventh street, and by the concessions to recreational attractions. For, in addition to the historic value of the location, its beauty, the fact of its proximity to the famed Wabash River the old Wabash & Erie Canal plainly outlines its survey througharea--a sight infrequently encountered in Vigo County and elsewhere as well, a fact worth considering, as by its preservation it would add considerably to the historic atmosphere which abounds in that pleasing, beautiful locality.

Taken from the Terre Haute Sunday Star, December 9, 1928

STRIKING LOCATION, WITH GREAT VIEW OF WABASH RIVER, MAKES SITE OF EARLY FORTIFICATION OF PARTICULAR INTEREST -- BATTLES WITH INDIANS DRAMATIC CHAPTERS IN LIVES OF TWO PRESIDENTS OF UNITED STATES.

Four hundred and thirty-six years ago North America was a wilderness, unexplored, uninhabited by white people, without civilization. The country was peopled by a half million or more natives with red skins, naked savages. Immense herds of buffalo, elk, deer and wild animals roamed the vast areas. Great flocks of wild fowl which consisted of turkeys, geese, ducks, chickens, pigeons and lesser birds, obscured the sun, denuded forestry of branches as they migrated to distant reaches of land and water. Mineral and other wealth, far beyond the figures known to mankind, lay hidden by fertile wonderfully productive soil -- soil that had never been cultivated to provide food.

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There were among those explorers men who found return impossible because of their means; men who cared not to return to their land; men who had been driven, had been removed by force from their country. And there were men, because of their belief in God, who came to build for themselves and from those whom they loved a home in the wilderness, the reputed Utopia.

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immense areas of virgin forestry gradually disappeared, destroyed wastefully, wantonly, to provide mankind with food, excitement and to make room for civilization.

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FAIRTY STORIES UNTRUE.

While many writers of sentimental fiction would have their

readers believe that the Indian was of a loving nature, that he had a soul that looked heavenward to a "happy hunting ground", such fancies were not displayed by the Indians met in the early pioneer days. Perhaps after contact with the priests, the Puritans and other devout religionsits they imitated, as has the imported colored man, the actions of the white man. And the teachings of such gospels were never wholeheartedly taken into their souls, as one might understand who has read the various tales which have been written by actual pioneers, and not by men and women far distant from even the sight of an Indian.

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And, forming a portion of that vast, populous, prosperous area we visit a location where 117 years ago the government of the United States, after possession of over 30 years began to realize its value and began to make effort to protect from the Indians the scattered settlers, the pioneers of Indian Territory.

FIRST CLAIMED BY SPAIN

This territory was claimed, by right of discovery, by Spain and taken from her by treaty with the French, who had conquered Spain on foreign seas. The French made little effort to colonize the vast empire, were easily cast aside by the British and by

treaties caused by losing battles on foreign seas and in Canada. And the British, in turn, were defeated at several isolated fortified locations by the activities of that unconquerable general, George Rogers Clark, who defeated the British at Kaskaskia and Vincennes. Through the assistance of a few hundred half-starved inadequately equipped troops and aided very materially by the advice of Father Gibault, a French Catholic priest located at Post Vincennes, and by the funds and valuable advice of conditions at Post Vincennes, given to Clark by the unappreciated Col. Francis Vigo, the British were compelled to surrender the vast domain to the United States, an empire to which the United States came into possession of by treaty with Great Britain at the close of the War of Revolution in 1783.

It became a part of Virginia and Connecticut and much later those states relinquished their claims and the vast area became what was then known as the Northwest Territory in 1787. The year of 1800 the area was divided into several states - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota were the divisions named. And that year Gen. William Henry Harrison proceeded to Vincennes as Governor of Indiana Territory. And a land that had been dominated by four different nations began to operate as a distant portion of the United States; and the seat of government was sent to the location where there stood a log fort, called Fort Sackville which had the distinction of the flags of three different nations flying over its inclosure and a fort that surrendered but one time because of attack, and by surrendering to the American, General Clark, the British rule passed from the soil of the United States to a dominion bounded by a treaty that has never been violated by either nation for over a century.

HARRISON KNEW FACTS

General Harrison, as he took control of the affairs of Indiana Territory, knew of the existing fact that not one-third of the lands were possessed by the United States and that over two-thirds were then in possession of various tribes of Indians, Indians that had never been, and never were, friendly to the Americans. He at once set about endeavoring to arrange peaceful treaties with the Indians to obtain control of the various lands held by them. Toward that end he obtained United States troops and, later, began a series of fortifications along the Wabash River, whose course was the main artery of transportation at that time. He knew that the Indians were well supplied with guns, powder and lead and had been taught by observing the white man's tactics of warfare and the fact that they were supplied by the British. He knew they dared not give battle with a great number of warriors because of the difficulties of transporting the men and women and providing for them while on an extended journey to an intended attack. So it was understood by that Indian-fighting Harrison that forts must be constructed at various settlements and made convenient as a refuge for the settlers in event of attack by small bands of roving Indians. While no attack upon any of these forts constructed was made by any great force of Indians, they provided protection for the isolated settlers who otherwise might have been killed or driven away by various war-painted savages and thereby retarded the civilization of the territory.

After weeks of correspondence with the wily but brave warrior, Tecumseh, who had left Greenville, Ohio, and was located in the South, and who General Harrison felt was the brains behind the growing insolence of a band of Indians that had formed a large

village near the mouth of the Tippecanoe river, which was called Prophetstown, and was ruled by that cunning Shawnee Indian chief known as the Prophet and who was a brother of Tecumseh, General Harrison became aware of the fact by the various speeches and long windy orations of Tecumseh, that there was but one way to end the argument and that way was by using force. So, after a year of correspondence with the federal government, he received instructions to proceed to Prophetstown with an armed force. The force consisted of less than 1,000 United States troops and armed settlers and veteran Indian fighters.

Arriving at a location just north of the Wea Indian village which was located on the area now occupied by Terre Haute in Oct. 1811, Harrison's troops camped near the settlement which was scattered over the large prairie on the elevation just north of what is now the limits of the city and there on the east bank of the Wabash river the troops constructed a small fort of logs with two blockhouses facing the river and it was named in honor of General Harrison. Five men planted 75 acres of corn near where now is located the Lockport Road. The Indians which were numerous about the locality, offering no hindrance, probably because of their child-like plans, they determined to capture the corn when harvesting time arrived.

SETTLERS FEEL SECURE

Log cabins dotted the horizon of the prairie, isolated, miles apart, but the presence of United States troops and the distant fort provided a feeling of security.

After erecting the fort, the troops continued along the Wabash river northward, crossing the river near Attica, there continuing on the west and north side of the Wabash, and north side passing

Fort Ouiactnon to the location of Prophetstown. Arriving there Nov. 6 they were apparently welcomed and a spot was pointed out to them for a camp. The place although judged impractical, affording no protection in event of an attack, was accepted by General Harrison and several days later just before the break of dawn on Nov. 7 attack was made upon the camp and the Indians found the troops prepared as they had been sleeping with their loaded guns near at hand and they were fully clothed. As a gun was discharged by a dying tomahawked sentry, the troops were instantly on their feet and the battle had begun.

The forces were about equal. Many whites were killed. Illustrious men fell in that battle. Captain Tipton and others were famed. Daylight arriving found the Indians scattered, disillusioned by the false prophecy of the prophet, as they found the bullets of the white men had penetrated the skin and bone of the red men. The town was burned and the Indians sued for peace. And the troops marched back to Fort Vincennes. But the Indians were not yet overpowered and had it not been for Fort Harrison there might have been a greater massacre than there was at Pigeon Roost settlement.

Between the years of 1786 and 1796 Kickapoo war parties from their villages on the Wabash and Vermillion rivers kept the settlements in the vicinity of Kaskaskia and Ouiactnon in a continual alarm. At the close of the Pontiac War the Kickapoos, assisted by the Pottawatomies, almost annihilated the Kaskaskias at the place afterward called Battle Ground Creek on the road leading from Kaskaskia to Shawneetown (in Illinois). The Kaskaskias were shut up in villages and the Kickapoos became the recognized prop-

riectors of the vast territory. One of their towns was situated on The Vermilion River near Danville, Ill., which was considered in the vicinity of Fort Harrison. The Kickapoos were much attached to the country and to the Vermilion River and they gave General Harrison great trouble before he gained their consent to cede the territory to the United States.

KICKAPOOS ARE ACTIVE

In the desperate plans of Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet to unite all the Indian tribes in a vast confederation in a war of extermination against the whites, the Kickapoos took an active part. General Harrison made extraordinary efforts to avert the trouble that culminated in the Battle of Tippecanoe. The Kickapoos were especially troublesome in 1806. Scouts who were learned in Indian language and customs were sent to the Indians with gifts, offers of peace and tempting advancement. However, the Kickapoos, who were numerous at the battle of Tippecanoe and who fought bravely at the battle and who had sided with the British many years, were not defeated in spirit as they fled from the vicinity of their defeat. They sided with Great Britain at the War of 1812 and 1815 against the United States, holding the settlements about Fort Harrison and other isolated locations in Indiana in constant peril.

As the Pottawatomies and other Indian tribes friendly to the British laid siege to Fort Wayne, the Kickapoos, assisted by the Winnebagoes, undertook the capture of Fort Harrison. They nearly succeeded and would have taken the fort but for one of the most stubborn, heroic defenses under Capt. (afterward general and President of the United States) Zachary Taylor.

September 4, 1812, after the Indians had for many days by

loafing about the fort induced the belief that they were friendly (at the same time the main body of warriors was secreted some distance away) the Indians felt the opportunity had arrived and as they had complete knowledge of the vicinity, number of troops and general defensive preparations, location of outposts and buildings. The Indians began the attack, in the middle of the night, by crawling toward the fort.

SETS FIRE TO BLOCKHOUSE.

One warrior with inflammable materials wrapped in a blanket, which was tied about his back, moved like a snake over the intervening space until he was directly under one of the corner blockhouses. Once there, he dug a hole, crawling under the blockhouse, he set fire to it. As it contained whisky and other inflammable merchandise, a blaze soon warned those within that an attack had begun and fire was also to be considered. The part of the fort that was set afire was destroyed, but before it afforded an entrance to the fort, Captain Taylor, leaving a sick bed and advised by a doctor, who was an occupant of the fort, there was constructed from timbers obtained from buildings within the fort a barricade that proved effective protection and the attack failed. The two days following saw continuous fighting and the Indians disappeared from sight, but it was over a week before General Taylor's scouts were able to reach Vincennes and deliver his call for provisions and reinforcements. The occupants of the fort subsisted on green corn as their stores had been consumed by the fire. Relief arrived after two weeks of suffering led by Colonel Russell from Vincennes. On his return to that location he found the remains of a wagon train of people that had been convoyed by 13 troops. The train

had been captured by the Indians, the men killed and the provisions removed.

Exasperated by their failure to capture Fort Harrison, the Indians attacked Pigeon Roost settlement and there massacred the entire village, which consisted of 25 inhabitants, mostly women and children. Some of the barbarities there were too shocking to be detailed.

In 1819 a treaty was made with the Kickapoos and other Indian tribes, by which the land about Fort Harrison, southward to near Vincennes, was ceded to United States and became a part of the state of Indiana. The majority of the Kickapoos migrating to Texas, because of their hatred for Americans and desire of living beyond the limits of the United States. They later moved into Mexico when Texas became a part of the hated country.

Abraham Markle, born in New York in 1769 and who died in 1826 who was a member of Parliament in Canada and who at the outbreak of the War of 1812 gave his services to the United States and had his property confiscated by the Canadian government, was partially compensated by the United States with a quantity of script land grants and extra pay, and he proceeded to locate on Indiana lands. As soon as the first public land sale occurred, he purchased with his land grants that land upon which the fort stood and many sections of adjoining land and also established a grist mill and also established a grist mill on Otter Creek, where it is still located. This was in 1816 and he was accompanied by Joseph Richardson. Both have numerous descendants living in Terre Haute at the present time as well as Dickson, Crawford and others who were defenders of the historic Fort Harrison. In 1816 Major Chunn was the commander of that military district and his head-

quarters were at the fort.

Two years after the attack on the fort, Indians while roaming about in small bands killing isolated hunters and settlers, se- creted themselves in a plum thicket near the fort. Two French soldiers discovered the presence of Indians, returned to the fort, and one of the Frenchmen returned to the thicket with 11 troopers. They were attacked by 40 Indians who had allowed the Frenchmen to return with their information, knowing they would return with a number of men. Five of the men were killed and all were more or less wounded. In 1815 the Indians in great numbers fled to Vincennes to sue for peace. While the attack on Fort Harrison had been widely chronicled there were more men killed at the plum thicket than there were in the three days' fighting in the fort. That attack cost the lives of but four men and General Taylor is quoted as saying, "They lost their lives by carelessness," by unnecessary exposure.

"Like many small affairs in the world's history, it was not the battle itself; it was not the few men--and women--behind the stockade, for one night withstood the efforts of the Indians and were not massacred. It was the events preceding and the results following, as well as the heroic efforts of the few, which render their defense of Fort Harrison one of the outstanding items in the history of the United States."

LINKED WITH PRESIDENTS.

Fort Harrison was built and first commanded by William Henry Harrison and at the fort's first and only attack it was commanded by Zachary Taylor. Both men gained fame as Indian fighters and statesman and both became President of the United States and both

while in that exalted office. As Tecumseh was historically lauded by the British for his aid to them in the war with the United States in 1812 and 1815, there is little doubt but that the British aided and abetted the Indians in their attacks on the Americans in the great Northwest Territory, and as Fort Harrison was one of the fortified gateways, by its firm, heroic stand, without doubt had much to do with preventing of delay to the settling of this immediate region.

And the fact is disclosed that the beautiful site of Fort Harrison has been dominated by four powerful nations and at that location there was erected a fort that was attacked but the one time and over it unfurled but one Flag to the breezes of the historic Wabash and that Flag was the one that now waves over the entire United States.

After the land was possessed by the federal government, sold by public land sales by Indiana, it passed from the hands of Abraham Markle, its first private owner, into the hands of Major Smock. A half century later it was purchased by the Ehrmanns and the tumbled dwelling was improved and provided a Summer home for Max Ehrmann for a number of years. He was later prevailed upon to sell to a country club, which now owns it and has beautified the landscapes and property.

The old original colonial cottage, which had been repaired and improved, has had several extensive one-story additions added to it by the present owners to make it more convenient for club purposes. However, the main portion of the building, and the doorway remain intact and are of that architectural type that was popular nearly a century ago.

GRANITE MARKER ERECTED

Standing in front of the club house, facing the river, upon the elevated east bank, which commands a beautiful view of a wide bend in the Wabash River, stands a huge block of granite, cut in the rough, to which is bolted a bronze plate, that carries the inscription: "1812 - Fort Harrison - 1912. This stone marks the site and commemorates the one hundredth anniversary of the heroic defense of Fort Harrison by a small body of the United States soldiers assisted by the settlers, against the Indians Sept. 4, 1812. The fort was built by William Henry Harrison and at the time of the attack was commanded by Zachary Taylor, both of whom afterward became President of the United States."

The fort, which was completed Oct, 23, 1811, was built of logs. A space 150 feet square was surrounded by a log stockade and two large block houses, each 20 feet square, at either end, facing the river. The gate was to the east.

The palisades running on either side from west to east were deeply embedded in a five-foot trench. The blockhouse, being set out from the line of the palisades and projecting over the lower building, affording observation and protection to the walls of the entire fort. The logs were cut from neighboring river forestry, as the prairie extending to the east, north and south for more than three miles in each direction was devoid of large timber.

It is to be regretted that this historic, sentimental, beautiful location is not the property of the citizens of Terre Haute or controlled either by the state or Federal government. It would

afford ideal, conveniently located recreational lands and water or great historic and scenic value - a spot which would prove to be both enjoyable and profitable to the entire community.

A great part of the purchase price could be realized by the sale of 100 foot lots, restricted buildings, along the east boundary in Seventh street, and by the concessions to recreational attractions. For, in addition to the historic value of the location, its beauty, the fact of its proximity to the famed Wabash River, the old Wabash & Erie Canal plainly outlines its survey through the _____ area - a sight infrequently encountered in Vigo County and elsewhere as well, a fact worth considering, as by its preservation it would add considerably to the historic atmosphere which abounds in that pleasing, beautiful locality.

Copied from Terre Haute paper, 1869

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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EMBRACING THE FIRST SERMON DELIVERED AT FORT HARRISON, A.D. 1812, AND NAMES OF PREACHERS, CIRCUIT AND LOCAL, FROM 1812 to 1819, INCLUSIVE.

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The Methodist Episcopal Church, ever true to their Christian faith, and inspired with progressive zeal true to their creed, are always found on the alert and ever in advance, adopting the pioneer spirit, are found in all habitable parts of our almost unlimited North American Continent side by side with the bold, enterprising pioneer, each striving in their laudable spheres to advance the spread of civilization. The wily unsubdued native savage no sooner leaves his bloody hunting grounds than the sound of the woodman's axe is heard in the forest, and the track of the plough proclaims the march of civilization, shall make the wilderness blossom as the rose and bring forth fruits for the sustenance of man, than the ever-watchful, ever-mindful Methodist preacher, in the fulfillment of his religious duties, packs his scanty wardrobe in his saddlebags, throws them across his saddle, already placed across the back of his faithful horse, he mounts astride and with the natural instinct of the pioneer, plunges into the wilderness and follows the almost trackless desert, guided by the notches or blazes cut on trees by the preceding adventurers. Thus he plods along swimming or fording creeks and rivers until arriving at the advanced settlement of civilization he finds himself the bearer of glad tidings and a welcome guest, but all being in a primitive and scanty condition, the best is provided for his comfort, and offering up a family prayer with all the fervency of a true Christian, he retires to rest on a bed, neat, clean and soft, spread down on a puncheon floor, not a bed of down, not a bed of feathers, nor of straw, nor of roses, but a bed composed of a tick filled with forest grass, his sheet and coverings the skins of ferocious animals, taken from the bodies of the bear, panther, wolf and catamount, slain by the unerring rifle of the pioneer, for the sustenance of his family, and defense of his domestic animals.--From this, to him, a welcome bed, he arises with the dawn of day, refreshed; the family and neighbors are gathered together at an early hour, and all rejoice and listen with their hearts filled with gratitude to God for sending among them a Christian minister, the first to introduce the Gospel for the salvation of the souls of mankind. Thus, the Gospel for the first time, is proclaimed in a Christian spirit, in this advanced post of civilization. His prayer and invocations to Almighty God, being over, the inner man is refreshed with a repast of pounded corn, made into a johnny-cake, a tin-cup of coffee made from parched corn, or the pulp of bruised acorns, and a haunch of cold baked venison, or the sirloin of venison, fried in the fat of the bear, an enormous round of which, neatly roasted, adorns the table and proves a welcome repast. When thus bountifully regaled, with hunger appeased, in a fervent prayer offered up in truth and sincerity to Almighty God, for the favors bestowed on these pioneers of the

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

wilderness, he fervently asks, or implores the Divine Being to bless the souls, and protect the lives of the members of the settlement, and prolong their inheritance on the earth, and in reverent invocation, prays that his efforts in the establishment of a religious congregation may be crowned with success, and seldom are his efforts in vain--his duty and first efforts at this point being over, he remounts his steed; with his host for a guide, he speeds away from one settlement to another, as far as the onward spread of civilization has reached the present terminus, spreading the glad tidings of the Gospel throughout the land. At each settlement he arranges for a place of public worship, where the sparse community may assemble and found the germ of a Christian community, and where he invokes the people to meet and form prayer-meetings until a minister can be furnished to supply the circuit. These places of worship being established a circuit is formed of many counties, and the pioneer preacher returns to whence he came and reports progress to the Methodist Conference who selects him or some other brother of the church, and away he speeds on his mission of love, a circuit preacher of the Gospel and a private mail carrier, he visits these established appointments at intervals of from one to three weeks vacation, the interval depending on the extent of his circuit, not unfrequently embracing several counties. Reader, I assure you nothing short of impossibilities debarred him from punctual attendance; rain, hail, snow, heat or cold checked him not, with his heart and soul wrapped up in his mission for the good of his fellow man. If but one erring and sinful soul can be reclaimed from sin to christianity through the influence of the circuit preacher his heart will leap for joy, his soul respond Amen, and with reanimation, on he will speed even unto the end. And I ask how often is this care-worn, weather-beaten good Samaritan scoffed at, and reviled. But in meekness of spirit he bears the Cross with patience and responds, "Oh, Father, in Heaven, forgive them, for they know not what they do;" and thus, with compensation barely sufficient to sustain life, he plods along on his mission of mercy, until bowed down with old age, his hair a wavy white, his eye grown dim, with tottering limbs, the lamp of life slowly but surely ebbing out until but a spark remains, he continues to sing his favorite song, "As long as the lamp holds out to burn, the vilest sinner may return." Then, with joy in his heart, that he has been through life, a faithful Christian, he lies down on his last bed on earth and breathing with his last breath, a prayer to Almighty God for the forgiveness of sins, and the salvation of the souls of mankind, he resigns his spirit to God who gave it, his spirit takes its flight from its tenement of clay, and soars aloft to the regions of bliss, the body is laid in the grave, the last resting place in earth. Then another takes his place and finishes the work undone, and prepares the way before him for a far larger scope, and more prolific fields. Reader, this to many may seem a fiction. To such as have not witnessed the privations of a frontier, and witnessed the untiring vigilance of a frontier Methodist conference, the christian ability and unremitting zeal of their circuit preachers, I take the liberty of asserting that within my residence of fifty-two years in Indiana and fifty years a resident of Terre Haute, I have witnessed the principle part of the above. And further add that the first sermon I have any knowledge of being delivered in Terre Haute, was delivered at the house of my father, Robert

Harrison, then known as the Indian Chief Tavern, in the spring of 1819, the name of the preacher I have forgotten, but believe it was James McCord. From the following facts which cannot be questioned or denied by any man, and which I have obtained through the kindness of Rev. C. A. Brooks, who at my request obtained them from Elder Aaron Wood, of Michigan City, Ind., as follows, to-wit. In 1812 Jonathan Stamper, then Chaplain to the Kentucky troops stationed at Fort Harrison, then the North Western Territory, preached the first sermon to the troops in 1812. All the settlements at that date, 1812, north of Vincennes were in the Vincennes circuit and so continued until 1818, when James McCord a resident of Daviess county, was sent to Fort Harrison circuit. (Note by the writer. When the first sermon in the Indian Chief Tavern, in the spring of 1819, there was not exceeding 25 persons present; of those persons seven professed the Methodist faith, viz: Doctor C. B. Modesitt and Mrs. Modesitt, William Haynes and Mrs. Haynes, Jerusha Harrison, Lucinda Stokes, Mrs. McFadden. In the county there were many, but as preaching was continued at the Indian Chief Tavern, there were many converts, until the Court House was in a condition to admit divine service. The congregation increased and many attended that were not members and continued until the following appointments were made, viz:

1820, William Medford,	1829, J. Hadlay,
1821, John Strader,	" , J. Hadley, (cont'd)
1822, James Scott,	1830, W. H. Smith,
1823, David Chamberlin	" , W. H. Smith (con'd.)
1824, M. Vrevenburgh,	1831, R. Hargrave;
1825, Samus Hull,	" , D. Murphy,
1826, Richard Hargrave,	1832, E. G. Wood,
1827, S. R. Beggs,	" , W. Taylor,
1828, S. C. Cooper,	

In 1831, Edwin Ray was sent by the Conference, as an experiment, to Terre Haute to form a station, but did not succeed, the attempt was abandoned and returned under charge as a circuit. At this period of time the Conference ended, called the Illinois Conference, and the Indiana Conference was established, and appointed, 1833, J. Ritchey; 1834, Richard Hargrave; 1834, W. Watson; 1835, Jos. White; 1835, D. Stiver.

In 1835, it was in the Vincennes district, and Aaron Wood was the Presiding Elder and was then made a Station, through the liberality of John Jackson, Sen'r., and three other members of the church, who pledged themselves to pay \$400 for the support of a station preacher, which sum they punctually paid, and Rev. Smith L. Robinson was appointed local preacher, and Thomas Ray and Thomas Bartlet, were, at the same time, circuit preachers at various places for holding service at different points from Terre Haute in the county. "Note by the writer, Reverend Mr. Robinson, during his time as local preacher erected a two-story frame building on the corner of Sixth and Oak streets designed for a Female Academy, in which meritorious attempt he was unsuccessful; the attempt was abandoned, and the building converted into a private dwelling house, and at this time owned and occupied by Charles Cruft, Esq. Mr. Robinson was recalled from the station, and after spending years of fruitful life in the service of his Heavenly Father for the salvation of souls of mankind, died at the Conference in 1836, beloved by all who knew him; and in 1837, John Daniel was appointed to fill the place of Mr. Robinson; 1838, John Daniel was continued;

1839, E. Patrick; 1840, the District was changed to the Green-castle District, with E. R. Ames, bishop, and John L. Bayness, station preacher, for the succeeding year 1841. Here followed an important historical fact connected with the church, viz: There was an agreement made between the Reverende Richard Hargrave and Aaron Wood in 1826, when Hargrave was on the Honey Creek circuit and Aaron Wood was, on the Vincennes circuit, that they should visit both circuits in their ministerial capacity, and Aaron Wood came to Terre Haute in 1826, and they (Hargrave and Wood) preached in the Court House until June, 1834, at which time the Methodists had taken possession of a lot donated by the propriors of the town for the use of a church, the church appears of a record on the map at the corner of Fourth and Poplar streets no section being named in the donation. The Methodists took legal possession and erected thereon a frame building, which they occupied for a church, and in 1834, Aaron Wood, the Methodist preacher, and Reverend M. A. Jewett, a Congregational Minister, conjointly preached the dedication sermon and established the first Methodist Church in Vigo county. The edifice, from its inferior dimensions, soon became too small and was made to give way to a large and stately brick edifice, known as Asbury Chapel, founded 1841. During the above period of time the appointments made where circuit preaching and neighborhood prayer meetings were held in distant parts of the county, were at the houses of private citizens, as a general rule members of the church. Of those within my recollection were James Barnes, at the upper end of Otter Creek Prairie, about nine miles north of Terre Haute; John Dickson's, at the head of Honey Creek Prairie, 4½ miles south of Terre Haute; at the Widow Thompson's, about 13 miles south on the old Vincennes road, and at John Jackson's, Sr. at or near Lockport, about 10 miles south-east of Terre Haute, Indiana. The above ends the record furnished by the Rev. Aaron Wood, of Michagan City, and does not appear of record at Asbury Chapel.

The following record, at my solicitation, has been furnished by the Rev. C. A. Brooke, and copied from the record minutes at Asbury Chapel, comprising a list of local and circuit preachers, viz:

1840, Ebenezer Patrick,	1855, William Wilson,
1841, John S. Bayles,	1856, P. Wiley,
1842, John S. Bayles,	1857, P. Wiley,
1843, Joseph Vance,	1858, G. W. Crawford
1844, S. T. Gillett,	1859, T. S. Webb
1845, S. T. Gillett,	1860, T. S. Webb,
1846, Amas Johnson,	1861, G. M. Boyd
1847, Amasa Johnson,	1862, G. M. Boyd,
1848, J. L. Smith,	1863, L. Nebeker,
1849, H. B. Beers,	1864, W. Graham,
1850, G. M. Boyd,	1865, W. Graham,
1851, J. C. Smith,	1866, W. Graham,
1852, J. C. Smith,	1867, C. A. Brooke,
1853, Aaron Wood,	1868, C. A. Brooke,
1854, William Wilson,	1869, C. A. Brooke,

As the name of Rev. C. A. Brooke appears of record at this date in charge of Asbury Chapel, I have no doubt he will be continued in charge for a term of years. The reader will bear in mind that at the outset of the foregoing history, I do not remember but seven persons in 1819 professing the Methodist faith in the

town. Outside of the town, in many small settlements, there were many members in proportion to the population; but since that period of time, the increase to the church has met the most sanguine expectation of all supporters of the Methodist faith.

The number of members and communicants under the charge of Rev. C. A. Brooke, at Asbury Chapel at this period of time, are 338; and at the Centenary Church, under charge of Rev. B. Wilson Smith, 347, making the grand total 685. This increase of members professing the Methodist faith is highly creditable to our city, and exerts a healthy influence on the morals of our youth and community with a prospect of a glorious future; but a wide field of labor is before them, and they will not be found sleeping on their posts; their motto being the progressive spread of the Gospel.

Reader, place your mind back to the date of the first sermon preached in Terre Haute, by a Methodist minister, in the spring of 1819, at the Indian Chief Tavern, and we find 7 professors, which, if they remained true to their faith, it must be conceded that the increase has been at least satisfactory.

And taking into consideration the large numbers of their congregation that have died, few, if any, churches can boast a better record. From 1819 to 1834 a period of 15 years, the numbers increased in less a ratio than at any period of time since. In 1834, the dedication of their church may be said to have given it the first healthy impulse and established a permanency that has known no abatement. The writer has lived to see not only the first seven members depart from this life, but during a residence of over a half century in Terre Haute, has missed many worthy Christians. They fled from earth by scores, if not by thousands, until at last I find myself alone with one exception, to tell the tale and record the giant strides and spread of the Methodist faith. When the first sermon was preached in 1819, we were surrounded with an uncultivated wilderness country, our ears were saluted with the yell of the savage and the howl of the wolf, and deprived of many ordinary comforts of life and being unacclimated to the country, a pestilence swept through the land as with fire and sword and laid the strong and the weak alike in their tombs. So horrible was the slaughter that the land was draped in mourning, and the country would be depopulated; but nothing daunted, on pressed the Westward flow of civilization and replenished the chasm made by the dead, and with them came the ministering angel of health and succor to the afflicted. The stench was removed from the land, the pestilence abated, and under the protection of God these children of Christian faith, purified from the stain of sin, have reared their church spires where, but a short time past, the Indian rejoiced in his war song and exultingly brandished his tomahawk over the head of the captive mother and wife, while the scalps of the husband and child reeking with blood yet dangled at the warrior's belt. As a verification of a part of my remarks, I will add the following facts:

Where Asbury Chapel now stands, 39 years since it was covered with a dense thicket of trees and underbrush, which have been cleared away, and a stately brick building erected with a lofty spire, called Asbury Chapel, at a cost of, or Value.....\$15,000

Family residence, or parsonage.....	5,000
	<hr/>
	\$20,000
Centenary Church.....	15,000

Total.....	<hr/>	35,000
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EXPENDITURES PAID BY ASBURY CHAPEL
1869.

Salary of local preacher...	\$1,400 00
Conference claimants.....	100 00
Missionary Society.....	353 00
Church extension.....	16 65
Tract Society.....	10 35
Bible Society.....	53 00
Sunday School Union.....	13 45
Freedman's Aid Society	100 00

Sum total..... \$2,046 45

B. M. HARRISON.

CHARACTER BOND

100% COTTON ONLY FOR RIVER

Excerpts from

"COPY OF"
DIARY WRITTEN BY ENOCK HONEYWELL

1815 - 1816 - 1817

TRAVELED FROM NEW YORK TO NEW ORLEANS
BY WAY OF PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO
INDIANA ETC."

CHARACTER BOND

Pages 97 thru 100

100% COTTON by FOX RIVER

28th left Hardenstown, with about 50 hogs bound to Terre Haute; about a doz. more had got astray & could not be found; the Ohio very high so that I have to drive on a back blind road to avoid back wasters.

1817, 12th July (Saturday) arrived at Mr. Daniel Laines with all my hogs except 2 or 3 which strayed & tired.

Sunday morning 28th Sept. left boarding.

28th (Monday) started for Vincennes. 4th August returned & on the way back bought of Mr. Ladawick Earnest on Prarie creek a waggon & two pair of 3 year old steers for \$145.

1st. Sept 1817. Hackalish Vredenbergh & his wife began to work for me for one year at \$200. My self now sick with an accute fever, which has confined me to bed for three weeks, but now on the mend.

10th Oct. hard frost which killed vines & injured corn. the corn being later than common. A few weeks ago some indians being in at the fort saw a young man there with a horse which they said had been theirs (which I expect was false) an Indian however attempted to take him away; the young called help; a contest ensued; three or 4 indians on one side with knives, & as many white men the other with clubs. One white man got dangerously stabled but recovered; two indians were badly bruised, & the one who stabled the man tried to make his escape but was followed & by refusing to give up, was shot dead. This made some difficulty & a treaty hapening to be held soon after a brother of the deceased was complimented with a horse, which settled the whole.

9th March 1818, today began ploughing new prairie it being the first except about 6 days that ploughing could be done since Dec. I have had the fever & ague on an average about every 4th day since last Sept. the winter about as cold as N.York, though but 8 or 10 in snow, which made sleighing 3 or 4 weeks, with in the winter I have lost about 60 shotes by there pileing in heaps to keep them selves warm.

15th July, 1818. taken sick I stoped ploughing having broken since 9th March '18, 80 acres for planting to corn, & 20. since at \$3.25 to 3.33 per acre.

1818, 1st. Sept. now boarding at Uncle C. Crawford's & have a feve on me considerable of the time, with an ague every day; Aunt Phebe Crawford very sick with fever, & three children shaking with ague. The country now very sickly; from the little observation I have been able to make & the information of neighbours I find that more than half of the whole are sick. I was about 4 weeks unable to ride; when the fever was at its highest pitch I was dosed with calomel, bled & had 2 blisters on me all at the same time; which with their combined forces had the effect to break the fever; after recovering a little so as to be just able to walk, the Indians who are now very thick here had been for several night encamped in hearing of the house where I lay which was just in the edge of the woods; Then one night at about bedtime made a great noise amongst their camps, also considerable firing at the fort 2 miles off, this so frightened the family where I lay that they quit the house, & went about 80 rods to a neighbours for safety; my self thinking there was some danger &

being very unfit for defense trudged off with the rest, where I arrived safe by resting 2 or 3 times on the way but no mischief was done we all returned next day; we all slept with our arms by our side (while they were encamped here) for our defence if attacked in the night. My physician now tells me he never could have raised me.

1818, 1st Oct. boarding in Terre Haute at \$2.50 week. The people now are sick more or less at every house in town but the majority of them recovering health. I think there are not more than one person in ten throughout this settlement that escaped a siege of sickness this summer. almost every face now looks pale & lean. building, farming & every other business has lain nearly idle, since the middle of July.

1819, 23rd March. now boarding in Terre Haute with Mr. R. Harrison at \$3 per week; the country is now very healthy in Dec. last we had one or 2 inches of snow & a little cool weather, then weather was warm, now more snow, & the ground scarcely froze till the middle of Feb when there was 3 or 4 in but no very cold weather, this snow lasted but about 3 days, weather then warm till march when there was 5 or 6 in. snow & 10 or 12 days cold weather so that in the whole winter & spring the ground has been froze as to stop ploughing about 4 weeks. In Jan. last a few young men together with myself formed a society entitled the young gentlemen's Literary society of Terrehaute, which we have ever since attended ones a week; our business has been debating on questions of different subjects, declaiming, reading our own composition etc. The fever that attacked me last summer dwindled off

with the fever & ague, which finally left me in january, since
which time my health has been tolerable uniform, except a few
chills of ague 2 or 3 weeks ago.

CHARACTER BOND

100% COTTON - BY FOX RIVER

August 30, 1848, Page 2, col. 1, Wabash Express..

AN IMMENSE PAINTING

The very large and accurate painting of Old Fort Harrison as it stood on the banks of the Wabash in 1812, will be exhibited tonight at the Town Hall.

It is 40 ft. long by 15 in height, containing an exact view of the Fort and surrounding scenery, and cannot fail to interest those who take pleasure in bringing to mind any of the important transactions in the early history of our state.

It is hoped the community will give this painting at least enough patronage to defray the cost of getting it up.

It is the largest painting ever made or exhibited in the West, and as it is the production of native talent, it ought to meet with the favor of our citizens.